

The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, August 21. 1694.

Quest. 1. **S**uppose a Man from his Childhood to his dying-day, should live upon Man's Flesh, at the Resurrection whose Body shall this Man's be that is compounded of so many Mens Bodies together?

Ans. But that Supposal is not enough, unless we suppose on, that his Father and Mother at least, if not all his Ancestors were as Errand Cannibals as himself; which he who grants must be a very kind Disputant; and without this there's no real difficulty in this Objection, which the Atheists make such a Noise with. Now even suppose that Man should rise with all the Flesh about him that ever he had, much less with all that ever he devour'd, one of which would make him a Giant, the other a Mountain. It does not yet appear what we shall be, but it seems probable that a very small portion of Matter will be sufficient for those Angelical glorified Bodies we shall then carry about with us. Though some parts of the Body are still in Flux, yet the main *Stamina Vita*, are judg'd to be more fix'd and permanent. However, if of any part of that matter which once was ours, our Body be made up at the Resurrection, none then can question whether 'tis the same Body. Now the veriest Cannibals sure eat a little Bread with their Flesh, besides Roots, Fruits and Herbs, out of which part of their Body must be composed; Nay, it's a question whether Man's Flesh will ever digest at all, or turn again into the Substance of Humane Body. At worst, as we have said already, this young Cannibal must have a Body of his own, before he could eat Humane Flesh, to increase it. We must grant him a little Milk too from his Mother, unless, to carry on the Fable, we'll suppose him suckled with Blood. Now that the Body of this Cannibal is the same, Essentially and Numerically, when a Child, and a Man, must be granted, otherwise he were not the same person; which were ridiculous to suppose, he being made up of Soul and Body. If it be said different Matter with the same Form, must still make the same Man, they hereby overthrow themselves, and leave all the Matter of the Universe to rebuild Men at the Resurrection. And if the Body be still Essentially the same, notwithstanding these gradual Alterations, then if this Cannibal rises with his Child's Body, perfected and enlarged, the Matter of it amplified and extended; or however it shall then be (the same Difficulty occurring as to the Bodies of all other Children at the Resurrection,) then this dreadful Bugbear vanishes, and other Cannibals, or Atheists, may, if they please, devour their Brother Cannibals Cannibal-Bodies. To make the Objection still stronger, the Infinite Justice and Wisdom can still find enough both of his Body and theirs to raise and punish.

Quest. 2. A Gentleman who professes himself of the Church of England, in London, by the Death of a Relation, was really intitled to Assets considerable; but they being in the hands, or possession of some who designed to stifle them, and the aforesaid Gentleman wanting proof, gave out, That One Third of all such Assets as any one did discover, should go to the Discoverer; and since publishes by a Gazette, N. 2846. after the rate of 40 l. per Cent. for what shall be proved and received, shall be paid by himself; which Gazette may be seen at London-Stone Coffee-house, if missing at other places. Accordingly a Tradesman of the City of London, upon Solicitation from the Gentleman, and his Acquaintance, treated thereupon, and after an Agreement made, and Two of the Gentleman's Friends becoming bound in an Obligation for the true performance thereof, the said Tradesman did shew several Notes that did agree with the Gentleman's Book, to

the Value of above 300 l. Sterl. 800 l. more being missing, as then the Gentleman declared. Also at the same time the Tradesman did deliver the Notes unto a Clerk of the Chancery-Court, upon the Gentleman's Request, he promising solemnly, by whatever was sacred, (understanding they were of other consequence and moment) to re-deliver the said Notes to the Tradesman within a Week at farthest. But notwithstanding his promise, and many pretences, delayed making their Return till one of the parties, concealing the Assets, had heard of the discovery, and being much vexed thereat, (as since he hath acknowledged) did give Instructions to a Serjeant to arrest the Tradesman for some Interest-money he owed upon the same Account, by Bond given in another persons Name, and confined him in a Spunging-house (usually so called) in Grocers-Alley, near the Compter, whilst Bayl could be procured. The Gentleman having Notice given him of what had happened, sent the Tradesman word, at the end of Four Days consideration, That the Two Persons bound should Bayl him, if their Obligation might lie in his hands for their Security, till indemnified; whereunto both sides consented; but in a short time after the Bayl, albeit they were not in danger, nor likely to come to any, did by the Gentlemen's direction, take up the said Tradesman, and surrender him before a Judge of the King's-Bench-Prison, in discharge of themselves; where he continued almost a year, not only without any Supply, though application to the Gentleman was often made for some, and for the Notes and Obligation, which would have been of great use; and the loss of so much Time, and in Necessity, besides the hazard of his Life, a Sickness being there some Months so violent, that many Prisoners dyed weekly; but under a daily Expectation of a small matter which the Gentleman promised to give for the Tradesman's Enlargement, if the same would be accepted: Whereupon application was often made to the Marshal, and after several Intreaties, being prevailed on to comply therewith, the Gentleman did nevertheless put off payment, and at last refused (notwithstanding he had received a considerable Sum before, by Vertue of the Tradesman's Notes, as can be proved) which angered the Marshal so much, that the Tradesman for some months after had scarce reasonable Conveniencies allowed; and, to all imagination, might still have layn under the same burthen, if the Marshal had not been kind; though he had for his Friendship, and the liberty of the Rules granting, all the Tradesman had in possession. Now the Tradesman having obtain'd liberty to go at large, did take with him a Friend to the Gentleman's House, and at his Door calmly desire of him his Notes and Obligation, the Bayl being acquitted; and asked the Reason why he did not proceed, the Suit being a long while begun, and ready for hearing; to which he made this Answer: I have nothing to say to you, neither will I deliver any Notes or Obligation; and so hastily threw to the door, with this Expression, Take your Course; for you shall not have any thing of me, unless you can get it by Law. But the Tradesman not being willing to give any Offence, and desirous only of his own, went then quietly away, and many times since; yet being troubled at such usage, got an Acquaintance of the Gentlemen to speak in his behalf afterwards; which also proved Ineffectual. So the Tradesman not knowing what Method to take, was advised to represent the Matter to you; begging that you'll be so kind as to give him your advice, and report the same with your Opinion in your Mercury; and if you shall desire the Gentleman's Name, the Tradesman's, or the Assets concealers, mention but the same therein, and they shall be sent without fail.

Ans. This Question, as well as many others, might have been sooner answered, had it been dated; without which we know not how long it may have been received.

ceived. We wish it hadn't yet too late; and think our selves obliged to declare upon the whole, That if the Matter be fairly represented, the poor Tradesman hath had base and barbarous usage. All we'll yet say of the Gentleman, is, That he's oblig'd by his Honour, Character, and common Justice, to be at least as good as his Word to this poor man, who has run himself into all these Troubles on his Account. If the Case be misrepresented, we desire he'd do himself Justice in a few Lines, to be left for us, since we'd be very tender of such a Person's Reputation, as both he and the Querist may be satisfied by our stating the Question. We also desire the Tradesman to give us a further Account how Matters yet stand between 'em, and the Gentleman's Name, and shall accordingly give him the best advice we can, and wish him good success in following it.

*Quest. 3. In many places beyond sea they make use of tor-
tures to force a confession of any fact from such as are sus-
pected criminals, and 'tis generally received as the most
Certain way, not only of discovering their own guilt, but like-
wise all their accomplices, but supposing it political, is it not
an unlawful means to attain such an end however successful
it may prove.*

Ans. There is nothing more uncertain, than a con-
fession forced by such means, for when men are so tor-
mented, 'tis very probable, that tho' it happened some-
times upon such as had some veneration for truth, they
would not have at such a time so much presence of mind
as to be able to endure a continuance of their tortures
rather than speak almost any thing that is put to them.
And supposing it always fell upon such persons as were
really guilty of a charged crime, may we not reasonably
believe, they would not scruple some little addition to it,
in accusing any one to free themselves from their present
insupportable pains, and we have had an account of ma-
ny persons that have confessed their own guilt and ac-
cused others whilst upon the wrack, and have denyed all
when taken off, yet upon a second torture have confirm'd
what they before confessed, tho' no sooner were they
again free from being tormented, but they as resolutely
affirmed it to be false; thus we see there can be no cer-
tain dependance on what is forced from persons by this
way; and therefore 'tis neither political nor reasonable,
but were it both these, we very much doubt the Law-
fulness of it, Christianity and the Laws of Nature seem
to forbid it. And many instances might be brought of
innocent persons that by this means have Lost their
lives.

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